March 19, 2014

The Honorable Brian M. Cogan
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Judge Cogan,

Your Honor, I just would like to start off by saying how grateful I am to have been given the opportunity to change my life for the better.

I was dealt a bad hand from the time I was a young boy. By no means am I making excuses for the things that I have done. I was on my own from the age of 15 and unfortunately fell into the realm of the Colombo Family instead of the McLaughlin family. I grew up in an unstable household. My father an alcoholic and abusive towards my mother who had to leave our home when I was 15 years old. I left shortly after that and got an apartment with my friend Richie. I turned to the streets to survive and starting hanging out with the wrong crowd. I did not have the chance to be a normal kid. I pretty much only knew the streets right up to the day that I got arrested, December 21, 1992, I was 22 years old. I spend 16 years of my life in jail instead of enjoying what should have been the best years of my life as a young man.

Your Honor, I am far from a cry baby but it was not easy being a 22 year old kid in State Prison. I served everyday of it the hard way. That is when I realized what a terrible mistake I made in my life and how much I missed my family and needed them as much as they missed and needed me, especially my sister
She was like a mother to me besides being a sister. She helped make 16 years of incarceration a little easier to bare. I soon realized the people who I thought were my family and friends, and the life that I idolized, were nothing but phony back stabbing treacherous people that I was blinded by.

In 2001 I met my wife, Julie. She was the best thing that could of happen to me. When I finally came home in 2008 we were able to look to the future together and we married on January 24, 2009. I cannot thank her enough for helping me change my life for the better and standing by me. She sacrificed a big part of her life for me. She gave up so much for me and I refuse to let her down.

Shortly after our marriage I was approached by Agent , who helped me see what my future was going to be and I thank him for helping me realize there was more to life than the Colombo family and or jail. I immediately began cooperating with the government after I was approached. I am not going to say that this decision was an easy one for me, in fact, it killed me every day. The first time I wore a wire and made a recording it felt like someone put a knife into my heart. I was going against everything I grew up believing in, it was all very difficult. Then as time went on, nearly two years, my beliefs about the members of organized crime were becoming a reality. They were only going to use me to do their dirty work so they couldn't be directly involved with their illegal activities.

Then the biggest accomplishment in my life was born on , and all those beliefs changed forever. I never thought that I could love someone as much as I love
Being a father and husband is the greatest feeling and accomplishment I could ever have. I finally have my family and the normal life that I wanted so much and missed out on all those years.

The life as a Colombo family associate has made living the normal life an uneasy process. Applying and interviewing for many jobs was extremely difficult but made me even stronger as I knew that my new life was going to overcome it all.

I am so proud of myself, being able to get up every morning, go to work and provide for my family, the right way. Never had that chance until now. Funny thing, the other day I looked at my wife, after giving her my paycheck and I said "you know how good this feels to bring home a paycheck-heck it feels good to get a nice chunk of it taken out in taxes" (which most people would complain about), she looked at me like I was nuts.

Your Honor, I don't want one day to go by without me being able to come home from work and seeing my , who actually walks down the block every night to meet me at the corner. The big smile and the excitement in voice, Daddy's home, makes it all worth it.

Your Honor, what I trying to say is that I am a changed man. I am not Tommy McLaughlin, the young punk kid, Colombo family associate or tough guy. I am Tommy McLaughlin, husband, father, provider and protector for the McLaughlin family.

I wish my family was present today so I can reiterate how thankful I am to them for all their support but I did not want to inconvenience them or put their lives in any jeopardy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully

Thomas McLaughlin

April 6, 2014

The Honorable Brian M. Cogan
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Judge Cogan,

My name is Julie McLaughlin and I am writing this letter on behalf of my husband, Thomas McLaughlin, who will be before you on this day, May 27, 2014, for sentencing.

Although Tommy had a childhood that no one should, as a child endure, he became a man at the age of 14 when he left home to get out of the abusive household he was in. He made the mistake of thinking that the love of the street was all he needed and it put him in prison for 16 years. While incarcerated Tommy lost his mother with whom he was very close and loved more than words can ever express. His brothers and sisters all have had their own battles and it was all so much for him and his family. Prison may have been a blessing in disguise as it made him realize what life is all about and what is and should be his reality.

Tommy and I had been friends for many years and always had a special connection. When my father passed away unexpectedly in November of 2002 Tommy become that most important man in my life. Our friendship became a relationship without even realizing it; it was just right. Life together made sense for us both.

Although the relationship had some road blocks, together we were strong enough to get past them. When Tommy came home after being incarcerated for 16 years I had my doubts of not knowing what to expect, but from the moment he was released and back in society, and I mean the actual moment he was released, I knew everything was going to be just fine. He had gotten a job while in the halfway house and was on the right path for our future. We got engaged in July of 2008 and planned our wedding for January of 2009. The thought of me walking down the aisle, as I am the youngest daughter of without my father was tearing at my heart but knowing I had this wonderful man by my side made it a day that I will never forget. The happiness and joy throughout that day was indescribable.

Shortly after we were married, Tommy was approached by FBI Agent ; with the unimaginable. My first thought was, "how can this be, he just finished serving 16 years, how is this even possible" but it was. Although it was a lot to digest, we once again, together, made a decision and moved forward. Although the decision of cooperating altered our lives drastically, the support and love from our families helped us know that this decision was right.

Then in , was born and everything else that weighed heavy on our hearts was no longer an issue because filled it with more love and joy than we can ever imagine. the most important person in our lives, has made my husband the man he always knew he was, just a better one. He is an amazing father, husband and provider. It may have taken us some time to get to this place in our lives but we have made it and today we are a FAMILY.

Tommy goes to work every day and provides for us. He has made some great new friends, none of which live a life of crime or organized crime. His extracurricular activities now consist of basketball and softball. We as a family attend his games as our loves to watch him play and cheers better than anyone on the field.

Our life together may have started late in life but given the choices we had to make, it was a blessing that we still had the opportunity to make the life we have today.

Our attends preschool, I went back to school for billing and coding, we live in a beautiful development and have really enjoyed what has become our ***new*** life.

Your Honor, I am seeking the mercy of the Court when you decide what punishment my husband should have. I hope that you will reach deep within in making that decision and that you will be lenient , allowing him to move forward with his goals for our bright and promising future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Julie McLaughlin